

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

WESTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY DIVISION

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## SANDLAKE – GALLOWAY ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

## What's happening on the job?

Well more asphalt went down this week. The area we have been working adjacent to the Gabion Basket wall is now a smooth paved roadway for 700 meters. Again, this is only the first layer of two layers of asphalt. To reach the smoothness requirement you may have noticed the paving company is using a second machine in front of the paver. This unit moving ahead of the paver is a transfer buggy. It's just a big conveyor system. Using the transfer buggy eliminates any bumping of the paving machine by the delivery trucks, as there is no mechanical connection between the transfer machine and the paving machine.

Everything was going well in the paving process for at least the first two hours, and then as "Murphy's Law" would have it, something big went wrong. The transfer buggy broke down, complete with a full load of asphalt. The chain conveyor system broke a cog leaving what turned out to be two truck loads of asphalt stuck with no way to move it. So for nearly the rest of the morning, shovels were used to remove that hot asphalt. This is the pile of asphalt you see next to the barn; it was no longer usable for roadway construction. On the bright side, the asphalt crew went to option "B" and started placing asphalt using only the paver once the broken down components were removed. All in all an interesting day for the paving subcontractor who rallied from a disaster to still get the job done with quality.

Next week our contractor Elte will continue working the area around Three Capes intersection in hopes of getting this ready for asphalt. In addition, we expect some minor concrete work pouring concrete wing walls onto the 48-inch culvert now blocked up on oil barrels. Casting the lower half of the concrete walls makes for a much faster installation with better results.

We are making every effort to keep the traffic moving with no more than a 30 minute wait to travelers but with construction across soils that resemble a cranberry bog we fail at times to meet that 30 minute time. So please give us a hand by taking those extra minutes sitting in your car to give yourself a break, listen to the radio or read the paper, we are all trying our best to get you through the work zone as safely and quickly as possible.

\* \* EXPECT 30 MINUTE DELAYS IF YOU PLAN TO TRAVEL 6:30 AM in the morning to 6:00 PM in the evening

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